

**This Week in Congress**

*January 7, 2007*

Dear Friend,

Welcome to "This Week in Congress." I hope you and your family had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

**Ready to Serve Kansans in 2008**

As I look ahead in this new year, I see many opportunities to do good things for Kansans. My hope for 2008 is to see a Congress and President that work together in an environment less about Republicans and Democrats and more about the American people. 2008 brings opportunities for the right policies in Iraq so our troops can come home, a farm bill that creates a better chance for prosperity in rural America, an energy policy that makes our country more independent from foreign oil, reform of the No Child Left Behind law so teachers can spend more of their time teaching and a greater focus on the need for affordable health care.

My continued goal is to work hard and see that good things happen for Kansans this year. As Congress prepares for the new year, I would like to know what you think the top priority should be in 2008. I invite you to visit my Web site to vote in a poll posted on my home page. Any time you have suggestions on ways I can do my job better, please

[let me know](#)

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### **Helping Kansans Visit Historic Sites in Washington, D.C.**

Visiting our nation's capital and seeing the historic sites of democracy is a great vacation and something I hope all Americans can experience at least once in their life. My office helps hundreds of Kansas families make the most of their time in Washington, D.C., by providing tickets and tour information for various attractions. In 2007, my office assisted 1,235 Kansans in scheduling a tour of the White House. Many were also given tours of the Capitol building by members of my staff.

If your family is planning a trip to our nation's capital, please [contact me](#) and let me know what I can do to make your trip a memorable one.

### **Congressional Arts Competition - An Artistic Discovery**

Creativity and art are an important part of a young person's education. Each year, high school students in the First Congressional District have the opportunity to participate in the Congressional Arts Competition. The winning artwork will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year.

The Visual Arts Alliance of McPherson will host the 2008 competition. All submissions must be received at the Arts Alliance, 223 S. Main St., between Tuesday, January 29 and Saturday, February 2. Awards will be given in each category and will be announced at a reception on Saturday, February 9 at 10:00 a.m. at the Visual Arts Alliance of McPherson.

I encourage students to enter their work for the unique opportunity to have it displayed in the U.S. Capitol. [Click here](#) to view the competition guidelines. Interested students and teachers may also contact my [Hutchinson district office](#) for more information about the competition.

### **Presenting World War II Prisoner of War Medal to Meade Resident Bud Hoover**

Before my Meade County tour stop, I visited the Lone Tree Retirement Center in Meade to see World War II veteran Ellsworth "Bud" Hoover and present him with his Prisoner of War Medal. Bud served in the U.S. Army on the front lines of Germany where he was captured and became a Prisoner of War. He later received the Purple Heart for his heroic efforts.

It was an honor to present Bud with this long overdue medal in the presence of his wife, Dorothy, and son, Martin. I appreciate him and his service to our country during World War II. His sacrifices must not be forgotten. Thanks to Denice Kuhns for helping organize the event and to Lone Tree Administrator Michael Thomas for hosting it. I also appreciate the American Legion post color guard members for their participation in the ceremony.

### **Delivering an American Flag to Plainville Boy Scout**

Before Christmas, I presented Kent Diaz of my hometown Boy Scout troop in Plainville with a U.S. flag that was flown over the Capitol. The flag will be displayed in the Scout House in Plainville as part of Kent's Boy Scout Life Project. Also on hand for the presentation were his grandparents, Kent and Betty Stamper.

### **Remembering the Life of Former State Representative Delbert Gross**

On Monday, I attended the funeral service of former 111th district State Representative Delbert Gross. I was honored to serve as one of the pallbearers for the service. I had the pleasure of serving with Delbert in the state legislature as he represented the Hays area in the House and I represented Hays in the Senate. Delbert served from 1987 to 1997 and was always focused on what he called "my people." Throughout his life, Delbert was an active servant to the communities in which he lived and the State of Kansas. He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers remain with Delbert's family.

### **Listening Tour Continues**

I continued my listening tour with stops throughout the last two weeks in Concordia in Cloud County, Clifton in Clay County, Meade in Meade County, Damar in Rooks County and Larned in Pawnee County.

Today I will be in Hays and Hill City. Tomorrow I will be in LaCrosse and on Wednesday I will be in Goodland. Finally this week, I will travel to Quinter on Friday and Haviland on Saturday.

[Click here](#)

for times and locations of each of these stops and to stay up-to-date on other stops being scheduled.

### **In the Office**

Stephanie, Tiffany and Stephen Nichepor of Ness City were in this week for a tour of the United States Capitol. Tiffany will be serving as an intern in my Washington, D.C., office during the 2008 spring semester.

Very truly yours,

Jerry